

NWS Tampa Bay Visits the US Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater



Lt. Bolling describes the "J-Hawk" Helicopter to Todd Barron (left) and Mike Cantin (right)

Three members of the staff from the NWS Tampa Bay Area office traveled to the United States Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater to take a tour and discuss mission critical information during search and rescue events. The team consisting of Meteorologist in Charge Brian Lamarre, Intern Todd Barron, and Senior Forecaster Mike Cantin, met with Lt. Bolling of the USCG and took a tour of the facility. Lt. Bolling showed the group several of the aircraft as well as the operations area where flight briefings take place, and weather information is gathered. During the tour it was explained that the air station is the largest one of its kind in the US, with pilots flying missions from the Panhandle to the northern Caribbean. After the tour, the group discussed the information available to the pilots through the NWS office in Ruskin, and plans were made for enhanced communication during future missions.



Todd Barron at the helm of a C-130



The "J-Hawk" rescue helicopter



Brian Lamarre in the C-130